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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,786	03/10/2004	Robert A. Van Tassel	ENDOV-67986	5624

24201 7590 03/06/2006

FULWIDER PATTON
6060 CENTER DRIVE
10TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

EXAMINER	
GIBSON, ROY DEAN	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3739	

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/798,786	VAN TASSEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Roy D. Gibson	3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 November 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *51-73* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *51-73* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The allowability of most of the claims has been withdrawn as presented by the rejections via new prior art below, therefore, this Office action is non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 67 recites the limitation "the aneurysm" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The examiner suggests changing this to “an aneurysm” to correct this.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 51 and 53-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Laufer et al. (6,488,673). Laufer et al. disclose a method of strengthening tissue of a subject comprising the steps essentially as claimed as applied to target region is found

in the bronchi except for the limitation of claim 52 wherein X-ray irradiation is used (col. 9, lines 44-52, col. 11, lines 8-38), col. 16, lines 30-53, col. 26, line 38-col. 27, line 3).

Claims 61-66 and 68-71 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Laufer et al. (6,488,673). Laufer et al. disclose a method of applying heat to the inner wall of a vessel which inherently heats the outermost connective tissue of the vessel (adventitial area of the tissue) essentially as claimed except for irradiating the site of an aneurysm externally using an external light delivery source (claims 67 and 72 and col. 9, lines 44-52, col. 11, lines 8-38), col. 16, lines 30-53, col. 26, line 38-col. 27, line 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laufer et al. Although Laufer et al. fail to include X-rays in the list of sources of energy (col. 11, lines 18-25) it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that X-rays with even higher energy photons than UV rays would be effective in heating tissue as required.

Claims 69, 72 and 73 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Setilles (5,871,522). Setilles discloses a method for treating tissue by irradiating a target region of tissue with UVC irradiation which is from an external light source (the only steps in the method) and therefore, would with the proper time exposure either induce fibrosus or increase the adventitial layer in at least one layer of tissue (col. 7, line 36-col. 8, line 44).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 67 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

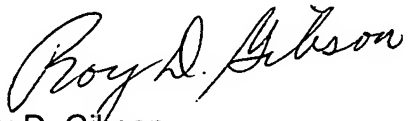
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Danek et al. (6,411,952) disclose a similar method of treating tissue as disclosed above by Laufer et al.

Note: the Terminal Disclosure filed 11/21/2005 has been received and approved.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roy D. Gibson whose telephone number is 571-272-4767. The examiner can normally be reached on Tu-Th, 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Roy D. Gibson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

February 28, 2006